

REMARKS

Further and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

The purpose of the present Amendment is to place the application in condition for allowance, considering the fact that the Examiner indicates, on page 5 of the Office Action, that claims 11 and 12 are free of the applied prior art references. [Although the Examiner indicates, in the second paragraph on page 5, that the prior art of record does not provide for limitations of luminous or fluorescent material (claim 12) and for the limitation of flame retardant (claim 13), it is noted that claim 13 is included among the claims rejected on the basis of prior art, whereas claim 11 (a transparent component with a surface covered with a pigment contained at least as part of the aggregate component), along with claim 12, are not included among the claims rejected on the basis of prior art.]

Thus, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 11, as a result of which claims 10 and 11 have been cancelled.

New claim 22 has been added to the application, and corresponds to claim 12 in independent form. The embodiment of claim 12 is discussed at page 8, lines 2-12 and the paragraph bridging pages 13 and 14 of the specification.

Claim 21 has been amended to overcome the objection to this claim on page 2 of the Office Action, thus rendering the objection moot.

It is apparent that amended claim 1 should be allowed, since it incorporates the subject matter of claim 11, which is not subject to any prior art rejection. Accordingly, the claims which are directly or indirectly dependent on claim 1, i.e. claims 6-9 and 12-21, should also be allowed.

Similarly, new claim 22, which is the only other independent claim in the application, should also be allowed because it corresponds to a combination of claims 1 and 12, the latter of which is not subject to any of the prior art rejections.

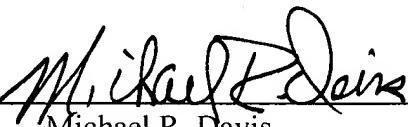
In this regard, although new claim 22 incorporates claim 12, it is still appropriate for claim 12 to be dependent on claim 1. That is, claim 12 is not a duplicate of claim 22, since claim 22 does not include the limitation of claim 11, which has been incorporated into amended claim 1.

In view of the foregoing amendments, all of the prior art rejections, as set forth in items 3 and 5-9 of the Office Action, have been rendered moot.

Therefore, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the application is now considered to be in condition for allowance. Such allowance is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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